



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MAN CHARGED IN SETTING TWO FIRES ON TONTO NATIONAL FOREST

PHOENIX, ARIZONA -- The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona announced that on June 24, 2002, a criminal Complaint was filed against STUART JASON ORR, D.O.B. 4/8/81, who was residing at Boy Scout Camp Geronimo, Gila County, Arizona. ORR is in custody and has an initial appearance at 3:00 PM today before United States Magistrate Judge Virginia A. Mathis. The United States will seek detention pending trial.

The Complaint alleges that ORR started two forest fires, which were detected and suppressed. The Bray Fire was allegedly started on June 20, 2002, and Girl Fire was allegedly started on June 22, 2002.

The Complaint charges ORR with violating Title 18 of the United States Code, Section 1855.

A conviction for carries a maximum penalty of five year(s) in prison, a \$250,000 fine or both, for each of the two counts.

The Statement of Probable Cause filed in Court with the Complaint states:

1. On June 22, 2002, Martin A. Rose, a Forest Service employee, was traveling to his residence on Forest Road 32 on the Tonto National Forest. As he turned onto FR 32 from FR 64 (Control Road) he noticed a red, extended cab Nissan type truck driven by a single white male with short dark hair, which was traveling slowly southward on FR 32 toward FR 64. Approximately three quarters of a mile further up the road Rose saw a forest fire on the left or west side of the road. He reported the

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fire at 2156 hours and took suppression action on the fire. This fire was named the Girl fire and appeared to have been man caused.

2. Two days earlier, on June 20, 2002, another man caused fire had been discovered and suppressed by the Forest Service on the Tonto National Forest. It had been designated the Bray Fire. Both fires were in the vicinity of the Camp Geronimo Boy Scout Camp.
3. Late in the evening of June 22, 2002, or early in the morning of June 23, 2002, Patrol Captain Tom Lister and Martin Rose located the vehicle that Rose believed was the one he had seen the night before on FR 32. This vehicle was parked at the Geronimo Scout Camp located approximately 1 mile north of FR 64 on FR 440. They recorded an Arizona license plate of LAK-361 which belonged to a Terence and Cynthia Orr of Ajo, Arizona.
4. On June 23, 2002 at 1135 hours I conducted an interview with Stuart Jason Orr who was identified as the driver of the red Nissan. During this interview he admitted to being on FR 32 the previous night but he denied any relationship to the fire, stating he did not know anything about it. This interview concluded at 1145 hours.
5. At approximately 1345 hours on June 23, 2002 I returned and asked Orr to voluntarily go with me to look at the fire and the road leading to it in an attempt to verify his story of what had happened the night before and he agreed to go with me.
6. At approximately 1545 hours on June 23, 2002, Orr voluntarily admitted to setting the fire the night before. He showed me where he had parked, where he started the fire, and described how he had started it. He stated that he had started the fire with a disposable type lighter. When I asked him where the lighter was he told me he had tied it to a rock and thrown it into the lake at Geronimo Scout Camp.
7. At approximately 1600 hours on June 23, 2002, Orr admitted to lighting the Bray Fire, located on the south side of FR 64, the Control Road, which had been discovered and extinguished on June 20, 2002. He could not remember exactly where in the burn pattern he had lit the fire, but he did admit to lighting it with a disposable lighter.

A Complaint is simply the method by which a person is charged with criminal activity and raises no inference of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until competent evidence is presented to a jury that establishes guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The investigation preceding the indictment was conducted by a Special Agent of Tonto National Forest Law Enforcement.

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The prosecution is being handled by Roger Dokken, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR-02-0133M
RELEASE NUMBER: 2002-116

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